performance of recently launched Integrated Services Digital Network is not upto the mark;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for such poor performance of ISDN;

(c) the total investment made by Government so far for introducing ISDN; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to remove bottlenecks in the functioning of ISDN and to made it functional?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir. The CMD, MTNL has said that the number of subscribers registered for provision of ISDN service is not large, in other words the damand for ISDN is not picking up.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Investment made in MTNL: Delhi: Rs. 3.36 crore (approx.) Mumbai: Rs. 71.20 lakhs (approx.)

(d) The following efforts are being made to provide the service further:

(i) Opening of more international routes. Already international access on ISDN has been opened to 5 Countries viz., USA, UK, Germany, Japan and Singapore.

(ii) Internet access on ISDN.

(iii) Providing ISDN connection on priority.

Capacity of Kurebhar Telephone Exchange in Sultanpur

1555. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kurebhar telephone exchange in Sultanpur district of U.P. is running at its optimum capacity and there is a persistent demand of enhancing the line capacity of the exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to enhance the capacity of the exchange to clear the pending backlog of the villages so as to improve the basic communication network in rural areas; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) At present the Kurebhar exchange is running near to its optimum capacity with 162 working lines and 20 persons are in waiting list.

(c) Yes, Sir, depending on the demand the exchange capacity will be expanded.

(d) Majority of the present waiting list will be cleared in next two month's time from the existing capacity of the exchnage.

लोनी क्षेत्र के गांवों में डाक वितरण

1556. **श्रीमती मालती शर्मा** :
प्रो0 राम बख्श सिंह वर्मा:

क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के गाजियाबाद जनपद के अंतर्गत लोनी क्षेत्र के गांवो में डाक वितरण व्यवस्था बहुत खराब हालत में हैं और पत्र, तार,मनीआर्डर आदि बहुत देर से वितरित किए जाते हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या इस समय लोनी डाकघर में डाक वितरण करने वाले डाकियों की संख्या पर्याप्त नहीं हैं; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार लोनी डाकघर में डाकियों की संख्या बढ़ाने पर विचार कर रही हैं; और तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा) : (क) और (ख) लोनी क्षेत्र में डाक वितरण व्यवस्था संतोषजनक हैं और पात्र, तार तथा मनीआर्डर सामान्यतया समय पर वितरित किए जाते हैं। तथापि विभाग के नियंत्रण से बाहर विभिन्न कारणों जैसे डाक लाने-ले जाने वाले हवाई जहाजों/ रेल गाड़ियों और बसों का रद्द हो जाना/विलम्ब से चलना, प्राकृतिक आपदाएं, वितरण स्टाफ की कमी, कारपोरेट मेल, ग्रीटिंग मेल आदि जैसी डाक की मात्रा में अचानक और आपवादिक वृद्धि की वजह से कभी-कभार विलम्ब हो जाता हैं।

(ग) उपलब्ध रिपोर्टों के अनुसार लोनी डाकघर में डाकियों के अतिरिक्त पदों का औचित्य है।

(घ) नए पदों के सजृन पर रोक लगी हुई हैं।

Illegal Fudging by Private Cellular Operators

1557. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is aware that many private cellular operators are allegedly fudging their monthly statements on subscriber column, volume as reported in the Economic Times, dated 12th July, 1997; and

(b) if so, what strategy is being evolved by DoT to counter the unhealthy trend of overzealous cellular licensees of four Metros reporting artifically inflated subscriber levels?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Alleged inflation in subscriber volumes has been reported in the Economic Times dated the 12th July, 1997, however, no specific details have been given in the news item.

(b) Need to investigate into alleged inflation in subscriber volumes has not been felt so far. In any case, in the case of licences for metro cities, the licensee companies are required to pay licence fee directly proportional to the number of subscribers from 4th year onwards.

Implementation of Promises on Global Telecom Pact

1558. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that FICCI has expressed concern that nothing concrete has so far been achieved by Government in creating situation for implementation of the promised India made to the World Trade Organisation on "Global Telecom Pact and Information Technology Agreement"; as reported in Hindustan Times, dated the 15th July. 1997;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have not so far accorded any priority in this telecom sector to fill up the vacant circle for basic services which are not filled even after there rounds of bidding; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken so far with regard to (a) and (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. As per News Paper Reports.

(b) There are at present eight circles for which no valid bid exist. These circles are Keraia, West Bengal, UP (East), H.P., J&K, Assam, North East & Andaman Nicobar Islands.

(c) The Government will take decision in this regard after the present Letters of Intent are converted into Licences.

Mini-M A new portable statelite communication service

1559. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Mini-M, the new portable satellite communication service; and

(b) whether connections are given to all applicants and if not, the reasons therefor?